

## Minutes of the Budget Hearing/Public Hearing/Selectmen's Meeting

10 February 2009

### PUBLIC HEARING

Members present:

R. Stephen Leighton, Chairman,  
Lynn Sweet  
Stephanie Gray.

Notice of these hearings was published in Foster's Daily Democrat on January 27, 2009, and posted at the Post Office, Town Hall and Strafford Community Calendar.

Among those attending were Joe Cicirelli, Jane Vachon, JoAnn Brown, Glenn Pierce, Sandy Pierce, Andrew Carroll, Paul Stover, Greg Messenger, Mark Messenger, Scott Young, Michael Richard, Meggan Yeaton, Irving Johnson, Carolyn Page and Gary Fowler.

The public hearing was called to order at 6:15 P.M. pursuant to RSA 31:95-c for review of an article proposing to re-allocate the distribution of all revenues received for ambulance services. Intent is to re-allocate 100% of the revenues to go to the special revenue fund known as the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Fund (Article 10), discontinue the Ambulance Services revolving fund created in 2008 (Article 11), and raise and appropriate that sum to be placed into the Rescue and Equipment Fund (Article 12). Basically transferring the money from one fund to another, however, this is the process required by law.

There being no further questions, the public hearing was closed at 6:20 P.M. were no questions.

### BUDGET HEARING

Public hearing was called to order at 6:30 P.M. The purpose of this hearing was to review the proposed budget and certain warrant articles to be voted on at the March 14, 2009 Town Meeting.

Articles 2 and 3 were discussed. Intent and background from prior Town Meetings were explained. Articles will be presented in more depth at Town Meeting. It was note tht Article 3 is contingent on Article 2 passing.

Article 4 requests funding for the purpose of design engineering and construction of a replacement bridge on Northwood/Bow Lake Road. Funding will be comprised of \$228,000. from a State bridge grant, \$37,000. withdrawal from the CRF established for this purpose, and the balance of \$20,000. will be raised through general taxation.

Article 5 requests funding for capital improvements to some roads. Public suggested More flexibility in the way the article was worded. There was suggestion to include “as funding permits” in reference to the whole article, instead of just section “c.”.

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Articles 6, 7, and 8 are a direct result of our recent storms and the increasing awareness of the emergency services that are needed. A short discussion ensued. Consensus was that Article 7 be split into two articles. One for the generator for the Police Department, the other for the Emergency Management equipment and trailer.

Article 9 (Fire and Rescue budget) requested same as 2008. No discussion.

Articles 10, 11 and 12 were discussed a public hearing held prior to this.

Articles 13 and 14 were explained. It was noted that if they both pass, the Town would be debt free.

Article 15 requests \$25,000. to establish a CRF for the purpose of future building improvements and/or construction. It was clarified, that this is intended for Fire and Rescue building needs.

Article 16 was read. No questions.

Article 17 was read. Creation of this revolving fund is being proposed for the purpose of receiving and expending special detail and grant moneys, in lieu of including these funds/expenditures in the Police Department budget

Article 18 (Police Department budget) is virtually unchanged.

Article 19 requests \$35,000. for the purchase of a police vehicle and equipment. Types of vehicles, along with what may be needed next year were discussed.

Article 20 requests additional funding for the “Water Street Dock” project. Progress on the project was noted.

Article 21 requested \$1,113,370. for the general Town operations. Public questioned elimination of the \$750. Conservation Commission budget. Concerns over keeping the budget down and the economic climate were noted. It was requested that Board consider at least restoring \$225. to cover the cost of dues. Board agreed to give the request consideration.

Articles 22 through 25 were explained.

Article 26 was read. How exemptions were applied and possible impact were discussed.

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The intentions behind Articles 27 and 28 were explained by the petitioners. Concerns were raised over wording. The Board recommended further clarification of what was intended by these articles.

It was noted that the Board would be checking into what funding might become available through the stimulus package.

Copies of informational forms (i.e. Warrant, Budget and Estimated 2009 Tax Rate) are attached as an addendum to these minutes.

There being no further questions the public hearing was closed at 8:35 P.M.

#### SELECTMEN'S MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 P.M.

After discussion, it was agreed to change the wording of Article 5 to provide more flexibility as suggested. "As funding permits" will be included in the first paragraph.

Article 7 will be split into two articles. One for the Police Department generator, and the other for the Emergency Management equipment and trailer.

All were in agreement to restore \$225. to Article 21 for the Conservation Commission dues, as requested.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.